Punjab Government Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026
(PHALGUNA 16, 1947 SAKA)

LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

Contents ***Pages***

Part - I **Acts**

Nil

Part - II **Ordinances**

Nil

Part - III **Delegated Legislation**

1. Notification No.G.S.R.16/C.A.46/2023/ Ss.105,173,176,180,185,497 and 530 C.A.47/2023/ S.63/2026 dated 07.03.2026 containing the Punjab (eSakshya) Managment Rules, 2026. .. 189-192
2. Notification No.G.S.R.17/C.A.46/2023/ Ss.64 and 530/2026 dated 07.03.2026 containing the Punjab Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2026. .. 193-206

Part - IV **Correction Slips, Republications and Replacements**

Nil

PART III

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(JUDICIAL -1 BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 7th March, 2026

No.G.S.R.16/C.A.46/2023/Ss.105,173,176,180,185, 497 and 530/C.A.47/2023/S.63/2026.-In order to implement sections 105, 173, 176, 180, 185 and 497 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 read with section 530 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 46 of 2023), and section 63 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Central Act No. 47 of 2023) and for electronic management of evidence (eSakshya) during investigation in criminal proceedings and trial, the Governor of Punjab, in consultation with the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, is pleased to make the following rules, namely:-

RULES

1. Short title and commencement.-(1) These rules may be called the Punjab (eSakshya) Management Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on and with effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.- (1) ln these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "CCTNS" means Crime and Criminals Tracking Network and Systems, a system software used by the Police for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

(b) "CIS" means Case Information System, used by the District Judiciary and High Courts for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

(c) "eSign" means authentication of any electronic record by a subscriber or court, by means of the electronic technique specified in the Second Schedule of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Central Act No. 21 of 2000) and includes digital signature. Also, when a process or report generated in electronic form is authenticated by means of electronic signature, it shall be deemed to be authenticated by signature of the person who affixed the electronic signature;

(d) "Hash Value" refers to a unique digital fingerprint at an electronic record, used to verify its authenticity and integrity, ensuring that the data presented in Court matches the original;

(e) "High Court" means the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh;

(f) “Immutable storage” means and include Digi-locker and any other storage method where once data is written, it cannot be modified, deleted, or overwritten for a set or indefinite period, ensuring data integrity and compliance.

(g) "ICJS" shall mean Inter-operable Criminal Justice System, a software presently in operation for transfer of information among various pillars of criminal justice system, which includes investigating agencies, courts, correctional homes, forensic laboratories, prosecution and any other stakeholder as notified by the central government;

(h) "Investigating Officer" means any police officer or any other person authorized by a competent authority or empowered to undertake investigation for any offence;

(i) "Sakshya" means any evidence collected/recorded as a document through eSakshya Mobile Application of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India or any other application developed and maintained for this purpose by the State Government or the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India from time to time. Sakshya consists of audio-video recording(s), photograph(s), audio-video recording(s) and photograph(s) of the investigating/ recording officer or a person whose statement is recorded during investigation. All evidence recorded through eSakshya Mobile Application shall generate a secure packet of the event (hereinafter referred to as ‘eSakshya Packet') with a unique ID called SID, a unique 16 digit ID (SID) with opening, closing time stamp and geo-location. Each SID and its contents will have unique hash value to ensure integrity. Sakshya will be stored in immutable storage;

(h) "Sanhita" means the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 46 of 2023).

(2) Words and expressions used, but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 46 of 2023); the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act No. 45 of 2023); the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Central Act No. 47 of 2023) and the

Information Technology Act, 2000 (Central Act No. 21 of 2000).

3. During trial, appeal and other criminal judicial proceedings, the e-Sakshya packet will be accessible to the concerned Court through the CIS application/Sakshya portal on ICJS.

4. Every Investigating Officer shall record all audio-video recording (s) and photograph(s) evidence as required under sections 105, 173, 176, 180, 185 and 497 of the Sanhita through the eSakshya Mobile Application of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India or any other application developed and maintained for this purpose by the State Government or the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India from time to time.

5. Investigating Officer shall generate a certificate under section 63 (4) (c) Part A of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Central Act No. 47 of 2023) through the eSakshya Mobile Application of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India or any other application, developed and maintained for this purpose by the State Government or the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India from time to time. All Certificates shall be eSigned by the investigating officer. The certificate shall include the hash value of the electronic record and the specific algorithm used to generate that hash value, as prescribed in the Schedule of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.

6. Investigating Officer shall link SID with the concerned FIR number/ General Diary (GD) number generated through CCTNS or any other application developed and maintained for this purpose by the State Government or the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India from time to time.

7. The Sakshya uploaded to immutable storage shall be construed to be forwarded to Magistrate as required under section 105 and 185 of the Sanhita.

8. The courts may permit sharing of Sakshya with accused and the victim (if represented by an advocate) as per the provisions under section 230 of the Sanhita. The e-Sakshya packet will be shared through electronic means (Portal or PEN drive) only upon specific directions of the Court.

9. The judicial officer dealing with the case can access the e-Sakshya packet as per the process presently embedded with the CIS, which

includes provisions for temporary assignment of cases during leave or transfer of the officer.

10. eSakshya packet will be archived after completion of all proceedings in the trial courts. It will be moved to a dedicated archival storage, which can be retrieved upon orders from the concerned court.

11. Nothing in these rules shall be deemed to limit the power of the Courts to view the Sakshya by the Court.

12. These rules shall be in addition to, not in derogation of any other law or rules for time being in force for accepting and managing Sakshya by the Court in terms of the provisions of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Central Act No. 47 of 2023).

Sd/-

JASPREET TALWAR,

Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Justice.

3656/3-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar

PART III

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(JUDICIAL-1 BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 7th March, 2026

No.G.S.R.17/C.A.46/2023/Ss.64 and 530/2026.- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and (2) of these section 64 and to implement clause (i) of section 530 and other enabling provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act no. 46 of 2023), the Governor of Punjab in consultation with the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, is pleased to make the following rules, namely:-

RULES

1. **Short title and commencement.-** (1)These rules may be called the Punjab Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on and with effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. **Definitions.-** (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(a) "CCTNS" means Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, a system software used by the Police for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

(b) "CIS" means Case Information System, a system software used by the District Judiciary for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

(c) "Disclosed Electronic Mail Address" means the email account of a person or organization that is used by the person or organisation to send and receive messages over internet, and is shown to be admitted, or provided by such person or organization either personally or on a website or portal;

(d) "District Nodal Agency" means the District Nodal Agency constituted under rule 13 of these rules, as constituted by the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District;

(e) "Electronic Communication" as defined in Section 2(1)(i) of the Sanhita;

(f) "Electronic Signature" means authentication of any electronic record by a subscriber or court, by means of an electronic technique specified in the Second Schedule of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Central Act 21 of 2000) and includes digital signature. Also, when a process or report generated in electronic form is authenticated by means of electronic signature, it shall be deemed to be authenticated by signature of the person who affixed the electronic signature;

(g) "E-Summons Application" means the software application developed and updated from time to time by the National Crime Record Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for the purpose of

issuance and service of process;

(h) "High Court" means the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh;

(i) "Process" includes summons, warrants or any other forms set forth in the Second Schedule of the Sanhita, with such variations as the circumstances of each case may require, issued for the respective purposes as mentioned in the Sanhita;

(j) "Sanhita" means the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 46 of 2023);

(k) "Seal" means image of the seal of the Court;

(l) "State" means the State of Punjab;

(m) "State Government" means the Government of Punjab in the administrative department;

(n) "State Nodal Agency" means the State Nodal Agency constituted under rule 11 of these rules by Department of Home Affairs;

(o) "Summons" means any summons issued under the Sanhita;

(p) "Summons Cell" means the summons cell as constituted under rule 15 of these rules; and

(q) "Warrant" means a warrant issued under the Sanhita and includes bailable warrant and non-bailable warrant.

(2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act no. 46 of 2023); the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act no. 45 of 2023); the

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Central Act no. 47 of 2023) and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Central Act no. 21 of 2000).

3.	**Form of summons and mode and manner of service of e-summons.-**	(1) The Courts shall generate and issue process in electronic mode through CIS or e-summons application or any other software application developed by the National Crime Record Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India or State Government for this purpose from time to time, in such forms as set forth in the Second Schedule of the Sanhita, with such variations, as the circumstances of each case may require. (2) Summons issued by the court shall also be served electronically by an officer of the court issuing it. (3) Summon serving official of the court shall make an entry in this regard in the register so maintained under proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 64 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act no. 46 of 2023), and get the same served electronically through e summons application.
4.	**Mode and manner of service of e-summons by police officer and other public servants.-**	When the Court does not possess required electronic address/ contact details of the person to whom such process is intended to be served or when the process issued as per rúle 3 is not served, it may direct the same to be served by the summons cell or a police officer or any such public servant designated for the said purpose by the State Government.
5.	**Language and form of process issued in form of electronic**	Every process issued in form of electronic communication under the Sanhita must ordinarily be

	communication.-	written in the language of the court and shall be in an encrypted form of electronic communication and shall bear the image of the seal of the Court and Electronic Signature.
6.	**Manner of Electronic Signature and seal of Court.-**	Every process issued electronically shall contain Electronic Signature in such a manner that the name of the Court and the capacity in which the signatory or subscriber acts, is clearly mentioned. The summons generated in electronic form shall bear or the Reader or any other person authorized in writing in this regard as the case may be. Every warrant of arrest in electronic form shall be issued by Electronic Signature of the Presiding Officer of the Court and shall also bear the seal of the Court.
7.	**Presumption about the process generated in electronic form.-**	Where the processes generated in electronic form is received on CCTNS or e-summons or any other software application developed by the National Crime Record Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India or by State Government, for this purpose from time to time, through a secured system, in an encrypted or any other form of electronic communication, it shall be presumed to be issued by the Court. Further, any printout of such process shall have the same effect as issued in original, for the purpose of its execution.
8.	**Recording of verified details relating to address disclosed electronic mail**	(1) The officer in charge of the police Station shall ensure that the verified details relating to address, recognised electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application used by the informant or

	address etc during arrest, investigation or inquiry.-	victim or accused or witnesses, as the case may be, are recorded during arrest, investigation or inquiry and entered in CCTNS. (2) Such information shall also be entered in the Register maintained at the Police Station and in the Court (by the Ahlmad concerned) in compliance with proviso to sub-section (1) of section 64 of the Sanhita. If any of such information is not available, the officer-in-charge of the Police Station or Ahlmad shall make an endorsement to that effect in the Register. Such information may be amended on the basis of any further verification or on the basis of an application by such person to the court through officer in charge of police Station or Ahlmad of the Court.
9.	**Complainant to provide details relating to address, disclosed electronic mail address etc. in case of private complaint.-**	Where a case is filed on the basis of a private complaint, the complainant shall provide the details relating to address, disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application of the accused and witnesses along with the complaint. Such details shall be entered by the concerned Ahlmad in compliance with the proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 64 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act no. 46 of 2023). If any of such information is not available, the complainant shall make an endorsement to that effect.
10.	**Transmission, maintenance and use of details relating to address,**	The details relating to address, disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application shall be transmitted in to electronic form

	disclosed electronic mail address etc.-	and maintained in Case Information System and may be used for issuance of process.
11.	**State Nodal Agency.**-	There shall be a State Nodal Agency comprising of the following officers, namely: - (1) Special Director General of Police/Additional Director General of Police/Inspector General of Police (Law and Order): Chairperson (2) Assistant Inspector General of Police (Litigation, Bureau of Investigation): Member Secretary (3) A representative of Legal Remembrancer not below the rank of Additional Legal Remembrancer: Member (4) Additional Director (Headquarter)/Joint Director (Headquarter) Member of Prosecution Department: Member
12.	**Role of State Nodal Agency.**-	1) The State Nodal Agency shall monitor and review the working of the District Nodal Agencies. (2) The State Nodal Agency shall hold regular meetings, at least once a quarter. (3) The State Nodal Agency may issue, from time to time, such directions, guidelines or clarification, not inconsistent with the Sanhita or these rules, as may be necessary for efficient and effective service of process through electronic communication.
13.	**District Nodal Agency.**-	There shall be a District Nodal Agency in every District in the State consisting of the following officers, namely: -

(1) Deputy Commissioner of Police (Headquarter)/ Superintendent of Police (Investigation) : Chairperson

(2) Any Judicial officer, as may be authorized by the concerned District & Session Judge: Member

(3) Deputy Director of Prosecution/Assistant Director of Prosecution/District Attorney: Member

(4) Assistant Commissioner of Police/Deputy Superintendent of Police (Supervisory Officer of Summons Cell): Member Secretary

14. Role of District Nodal Agency.- (1) The District Nodal Agency shall monitor and review the working of summons cell.

(2) The District Nodal Agency shall ensure that summons/ process are served properly and timely by the summons cell.

(3) The District Nodal Agency shall hold regular meetings, at least once in every month.

(4) The District Nodal Agency may issue instructions to the summons cell as may be necessary, in consonance with the directions, guidelines etc. issued by the State Nodal Agency and the provisions of these rules and the Sanhita, for proper and timely service of summons/process.

15. Summons Cell.- There shall be a summons cell at the district level headed by a police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector and shall comprise of sufficient number of police officials, to ensure the timely service of process issued by the Courts under the Sanhita.

16. Duties of summons cell and maintenance of records.-

(1) The summons cell shall be responsible for proper and timely service of process received under rule 4.

(2) The Summons Cell shall maintain a record of all summon/warrant for each police station in the district received under rule 4 in Register no. V Part II prescribed in Form 22.55 of the Punjab Police Rules, 1934 as applicable to the State of Punjab, including the following information, namely: -

(i) name of the person in whose name process in issued;
(ii) correspondence and permanent address;
(iii) name of father/mother/spouse/adult member of family of person;
(iv) aadhar number of the person;
(v) mobile number of the person;
(vi) e-mail ID (if any);
(vii) name of the Court issuing the process;
(viii) particulars of case including CNR Number (if any), FIR Number, Police Station etc ;
(ix) date of issue of process;
(x) date of receiving of process by the summons cell;
(xi) date of Appearance in the court, as mentioned in the process;
(xii) whether served/executed or not. If not served/executed, reasons thereof ;
(xiii) date of service/execution of process;
(xiv) details of the person upon whom the summon was served ;

(xv) mode of service of summon (physically or through electronic communication);

(xvi) name of the means of electronic communication;

(xvii) date of receipt of unexecuted warrant; and

(xviii) date of cancellation of process, if any.

(3) The register under this rule shall be maintained either in electronic form or physical form or both.

17. **Forwarding of summons issued in pursuance of rule 3 and 4.-** The officer of the court, officer-in-charge of the police station or any sub-ordinate officer deputed by him or any officer/official of the Court upon receipt of summons issued in pursuance of rule 3 and 4 above shall also forward the summons on the disclosed electronic mail address, phone number or messaging application of the person summoned.

18. **Presumption of service of summons by electronic mail.-** (1) Where summons are served by way of electronic mail, service shall be deemed to have been made if the service provider generates acknowledgement of the delivery.

(2) When any summon is sent to a person or organization on disclosed electronic mail address, unless the delivery of the electronic mail is disrupted or bounced back for any reason whatsoever, the delivery shall be deemed to be effected; and unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been effected at the time at which the electronic mail is delivered.

Explanation:- For the purposes of this rule

acknowledgement means an acknowledgement given by way of –

(a) any communication by the addressee, automated or otherwise; or

(b) any conduct of the addressee, sufficient to indicate to the originator that the electronic record has been received by him.

19. Presumption of service of summons by any other electronic communication.- (1) Where summons are served by way of any other electronic communication including messaging application, the acknowledgment shall form part of the report of the service and the report shall contain details including mobile number, messaging application and screenshot/photo of the application reflecting delivery of the communication.

(2)Any such acknowledgement by the person to whom summons have been served by such electronic means may give rise to presumption of valid service of such summons.

Explanation- Acknowledgement under this rule or under rule 18 means an acknowledgement given by-

(a) any communication by the addressee, automated or otherwise; or

(b) any conduct of the addressee, sufficient to indicate to the originator that the electronic record has been received by him.

20. Procedure of service of summons when email address/contact number/ messaging application of the In case email address/contact number/messaging application relating to the person summoned are not available, the summon serving official/person shall make an entry in this regard in the remarks column

	person are not available.-	in the format prescribed under rule 16 and after taking printouts in duplicate of the summon issued in electronic mode, shall execute the same in accordance with the procedure prescribed under Chapter VI of the Sanhita.
21.	**Procedure when summons cannot be served by electronic communication.-**	When summons are not served by an electronic mail or other mode of electronic communication, or delivery is disrupted, remains undelivered or bounces back for any other reason, the concerned officer shall prepare a report in that regard containing all details including mobile number, messaging application and screenshot/ photo of the application and shall execute the same in accordance with the procedure prescribed under Chapter VI of the Sanhita.
22.	**Service of warrant etc. issued in electronic mode.-**	In case of warrant or any other process required to be served in person, is issued in electronic mode, the summons cell or officer-in-charge of the police station or any other police officer deputed for this purpose shall take a printout of the warrant or process and execute the same in accordance with the Sanhita.
23.	**Acknowledgement when process served or executed through other than electronic mode**	Where any process is served or executed other than through electronic mode, the Police Officer or Process serving official while making service or executing the process shall take acknowledgement of the recipient and may capture the photographs with the recipient, which shall form part of the report of the service.

24.	**Transmission of report upon service/non service, execution /non execution of process to the Court.-**	Upon due service/non-service, execution/non execution of the process, the Police officer or process serving official shall transmit the service report along with relevant documents including, bail bonds, photographs, acknowledgment, if any, to the concerned Court in electronic form through CCTNS or e-summons application or any other software application developed by the National Crime Record Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India or by State Government, for this purpose from time to time
25.	**Presumption about report received in electronic form.-**	The Court, upon receiving the report in electronic form under rule 24, may act upon such report as deemed appropriate. Such report or printout of such report shall be deemed to be the original for the purpose of satisfaction regarding the service/ execution of the process.
26.	**Identity of victim not to be disclosed.-**	Where any process is issued in cases relating to offences under sections 64 to 71 of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Central Act no. 45 of 2023) or offences against woman or child or offences under 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012' and 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015' (Central Act no. 2 of 2016), the concerned officer shall ensure that the identity of the victim is not revealed in any manner in course of service or execution.
27.	**Non disclosure of certain details to the accused.-**	The details relating to disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application of

the victim and witnesses shall not be disclosed to the accused.

28. Repeal and savings rules not in derogation of any other law.- (1) These Rules shall be in addition to and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force or rules made by the High Court for issuance, service, and execution of process by the Court.

(2) Any Rules, instructions, and policy guidelines regarding service of process issued by the State Government prior to the commencement of these rules are hereby repealed to the effect and extent to their inconsistency with these rules.

Sd/-
JASPREET TALWAR,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Justice.

3656/3-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar